REMARKS:

Applicants respectfully request entry of the Preliminary Amendment detailed herein. Any wording added to the specification and claims by this amendment is believed to find antecedent basis in the original wording of the disclosure as filed or to be implicitly supported by the original disclosure. Therefore, applicants believe that no new matter is added to the disclosure of this application by entry of this amendment.

The Examiner is invited to contact applicants' attorney at the below listed telephone number in the event it is felt the prosecution of this application can be expedited thereby.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on December 4, 2002.

George Mentrup et al.
(Applicant)

By Marcia J. Rodgers

December 4, 2002

(Date of Signature)

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Deletions are indicated below by brackets (**[deletion]**) while insertions are indicated by underlining (**insertion**). Additionally, changes are shown in **bold type** for increased visibility.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please correct the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 14 to read as follows:

The Kohut U.S. Patent No. 5,742,035 discloses a method of encrypting credit card PIN's using a 3 by 3 grid of **[preprintd]** **preprinted** numbers placed on the credit card itself. The four numbers comprising the PIN are placed in the 9-number grid in a location known only to the user and the card issuer. Although this method may work well for an individual credit card PIN number, it does not allow a user to store, encrypt or **[retrive]** **retrieve** any other personal information.

Please correct the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 8 to read as follows:

Figs. 2a-e show the method of programming or encrypting stored character strings 18 (comprising "DOG" and "CAT") for retrieval using a password or **master** code character string 20 (comprising "ABC"). Fig. 2a shows inputting the first letters of the code and encrypted character strings 20, 18. **The master string 20 is recorded in the boxes 14 in such a mixed or scrambled order that the correct order of the characters of the master string 20 is not readily apparent. Then, by aligning the open end 22 of the sleeve 6with each character of the master string 20, a character of the encrypted or data string 18 is recorded on the grid 12 through the window 26 of the sleeve 6 to establish a fixed geometric offset or correspondence between the characters of the master string 20 and the encrypted string 18.** More specifically, the first letter of the code character string 20 ("A") is input on the upper row 10a and the first letters (i.e., "D" and "C") of the encrypted character strings 18 are input in the upper two boxes 14 visible through the window 26. The window 26 and the open end 22 of the sleeve 6 cooperate to automatically offset the characters 16 of the code character string 20 and the corresponding, respective characters of the encrypted character strings 18.

Please correct the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 3 to read as follows:

It is to be understood that while certain forms of the present intention have been illustrated and described herein, it is not to be limited to the **[spfortoecific]** **specific** forms or arrangements of components and/or steps described and shown.